

Podcast: What if we could use artificial wombs to save premature babies?

Ectogenesis, that is the gestation outside of a biological womb, sounds like science fiction. But one of the top stories of 2017 was the success of one group in making artificial wombs a reality—at least for lamb fetuses in later stages of their gestation.

The science is in large part motivated by the high, and steadily rising, number of babies born preterm or before 37 weeks of gestation. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [one in ten babies are born prematurely](#) in the United States. According to the World Health Organization, that same statistic is true [globally](#), and the United States is one of the ten countries with the highest number of preterm births (although not the highest rate).

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Critically or extremely preterm babies, those born before 28 weeks of gestation, have survival rates that are highly dependent on income levels. In the United States, preterm births have been linked to [17% of infant deaths](#) in recent years, while those babies that do survive have a high likelihood of major complications like cerebral palsy, breathing problems, vision problems, and developmental delays.

But what if babies born prematurely, instead of having to fight for life before they are fully equipped to do so, could be put into an artificial womb-like environment to complete their gestation?

https://geneticliteracyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ede_267-bo4.mp3

Read full, original post: [Could Artificial Wombs Be a Reality?](#)